



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 360**

*January Session, 2007*

House Bill No. 5463

*House of Representatives, April 5, 2007*

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. ROY, R. of the 119th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

## ***AN ACT CONCERNING HARBOR MASTERS AND NO-WAKE ZONES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 15-1 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 The Governor shall appoint a harbor master, and may appoint a  
4 deputy harbor master, for each of the harbors of New Haven, Norwich,  
5 Bridgeport, Stamford, Norwalk, Stonington, New London and  
6 Branford, and may appoint a suitable number of harbor masters and  
7 deputy harbor masters in any town in this state which has navigable  
8 waters within its limits, provided the appointment of a harbor master  
9 or deputy harbor master for the harbor of any municipality which has  
10 adopted a harbor management plan, pursuant to chapter 444a, shall be  
11 made by the Governor from a list of not less than three nominees  
12 submitted by the municipality's harbor management commission.  
13 Appointments shall be for terms of three years from July first in the  
14 year of the appointment and until a successor is appointed and  
15 qualified except the term of office of any person appointed before or

16 after July first in any year to a newly created office of harbor master or  
 17 deputy harbor master shall begin on the day of the appointment and  
 18 expire on July first next succeeding the completion of the person's  
 19 third full year in office. Any appointment to fill a vacancy shall be for  
 20 the remainder of the term of the original appointee and until a  
 21 successor is appointed and qualified. Harbor masters shall have the  
 22 general care and supervision of the harbors and navigable waterways  
 23 over which they have jurisdiction, subject to the direction and control  
 24 of the Commissioner of Transportation, and shall be responsible to the  
 25 commissioner for the safe and efficient operation of such harbors and  
 26 navigable waterways in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.  
 27 A harbor master appointed pursuant to this section may cite an  
 28 operator of a vessel for operating a vessel at a speed in excess of slow-  
 29 no-wake in violation of regulations adopted by the Commissioner of  
 30 Environmental Protection pursuant to chapter 268. The harbor masters  
 31 or deputy harbor masters shall exercise their duties in a manner  
 32 consistent with any harbor management plan adopted pursuant to  
 33 section 22a-113m for a harbor over which they have jurisdiction. The  
 34 commissioner may delegate any of his powers and duties under this  
 35 chapter to such harbor masters or to any existing board of harbor  
 36 commissioners, but shall at all times be vested with responsibility for  
 37 the overall supervision of the harbors and navigable waterways of the  
 38 state.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	15-1
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**ENV**      *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose:

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***OFA Fiscal Note***

***State Impact:*** None

***Municipal Impact:*** None

***Explanation***

The bill would allow a harbor master to cite a vessel in violation of Department of Environmental Protection no-wake zone regulations and is not anticipated to have an impact on workload or costs.

***The Out Years***

***State Impact:*** None

***Municipal Impact:*** None

**OLR Bill Analysis****HB 5463****AN ACT CONCERNING HARBOR MASTERS AND NO-WAKE ZONES.****SUMMARY:**

This bill gives harbor masters specific authority to cite vessel operators for speeding in slow no-wake areas in violation of the Department of Environmental Protection regulations.

By law, harbor masters are charged with the general care and supervision of the harbors and navigable waterways over which they have jurisdiction, subject to the transportation commissioner's direction and control. They are responsible for the safe and efficient operation of such harbors and navigable waterways.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**BACKGROUND*****Harbor Masters***

The law requires the governor to appoint a harbor master for Branford, Bridgeport, New Haven, New London, Norwalk, Norwich, Stamford, and Stonington harbors. She may appoint a harbor master in any town that has (1) navigable waters and (2) adopted a harbor management plan. Such a town's harbor management commission must submit a list of at least three candidates to the governor from which she must appoint the harbor master.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 30 Nay 1 (03/21/2007)